

# Fifty — Golden — Years —

1904-1954



FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
MIDDLESEX COUNCIL 857  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
WOODBRIDGE, NEW JERSEY

MARCH FOURTEENTH - 1954



# NATIONAL COUNCIL



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

To whom it may concern - Greeting:

Whereas, it having been much known to the officers of the National Council of the Knights of Columbus that a sufficient number of eligible men resided in the Town of Woodbridge in Middlesex County State of New Jersey having duly petitioned that they might be granted authority to organize and maintain a Council of their own within said Woodbridge and it appearing to be for the benefit of said order that their petition be granted.

Wherefore be it known that the duly authorized officers of the Knights of Columbus by and with the consent of said National Council hereby certify and direct the following named gentlemen to assemble and erect a regularly constituted Council of the Knights of Columbus to be denominated the

### Middlesex Council No. 837.

John J. Griffin James Dunn Michael Dolahan Michael Leahy Michael Dunigan Michael Grace Edward McCarthy James D. McGuire Michael Grace E. L. Donmond John F. Campion John Concannon Patrick Dennis Michael Dunigan Michael Dunigan Joseph A. Morell Patrick Mullagh Michael O'Conor John D. Ryan Louis Jelicks Patrick J. Ryan Arthur J. Delaney William A. Ryan Paul D. O'Brien John A. Moran Laurence O'Ryan James D. Scully Eddie J. O'Leary John D. Dender

And we do hereby grant to our Brothers above named members and permanent members of the Council authority to the usage by the same of the Knights of Columbus to elect from their members such persons as they shall judge necessary for the support of their Council and the regular payment of all constitutional dues and to elect with due respect all ordinaries emanating from the National Council of the Knights of Columbus.

In testimony whereof We have caused our names, name of place of the National Council

Attest  
James C. Conroy, Secretary

Given this thirteenth day of March, 1924.

James Conroy, Secretary





# *Dedication*

To chronicle the events and times and places of an organization for fifty years is in itself not a small task. To attempt to divide the affection and gratitude due to all those men responsible for the birth, nourishment, and raising of an ideal to the stature of humanitarian greatness is well nigh impossible.

But deep in the hearts of those of us new to Columbianism — those of us who have been privileged to affiliate ourselves with an established organization without having to undergo the rigors and trials of the pioneer — we feel an overwhelming wave of filial affection to the men of another generation who have made all these things possible.

TO THE CHARTER MEMBERS, therefore, whose manly Catholic spirit envisioned the true greatness of Columbianism, and who took the first steps to capture it for all time in the annals of the Township history, we owe our eternal gratitude.

TO THE PAST GRAND KNIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL, whose unfailing loyalty to the principles established by the Great Navigator, Columbus, have made them true and great leaders in every sense of the word, we owe our unfailing allegiance.

TO THE HEROES OF THE COUNCIL who have exemplified their patriotism to the fullest sense of the word by taking up the standards of their Church and country to fight and die for the freedom of their land, we dedicate our daily prayer.

TO THE MEMBERS THROUGH THE YEARS WHO HAVE LABORED HARD AND LONG, and who have journeyed back again to stand before their God, we ask His every Blessing on the work they did so well and pray His every Mercy may fall upon them forever.

TO THE MEN OF TODAY WHO ARE CARRYING ON THE LORE by leading the Council ever on to greater and finer heights, we ask the continued enlightenment of their minds and deeds by the spirit of the Great Truth and wish them constant success.

TO THE MEMBERS OF TOMORROW, whose charge will be difficult, we ask their perseverance and continued dedication to the highest ideals of the Order.

TO ALL OF THESE, this history is humbly dedicated.

— MASSAS



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Too often, perhaps, the expression: "From small acorns, large oak trees grow," has been used to connote the birth of a giant industrial organization or the formation and charter of a sprawling metropolis, the former from humble beginnings in a dimly lighted back room, the latter, from a mere Indian trading post perched precariously on the banks of a broad river. So too, the expression might be applied to the humble beginnings of another body in the upper rooms of a house in Jerusalem, where the Son of God gave His sacred charge to a group of His loyal disciples to go forth, over the face of the entire world, teaching and preaching in His Name the Redemption of mankind.

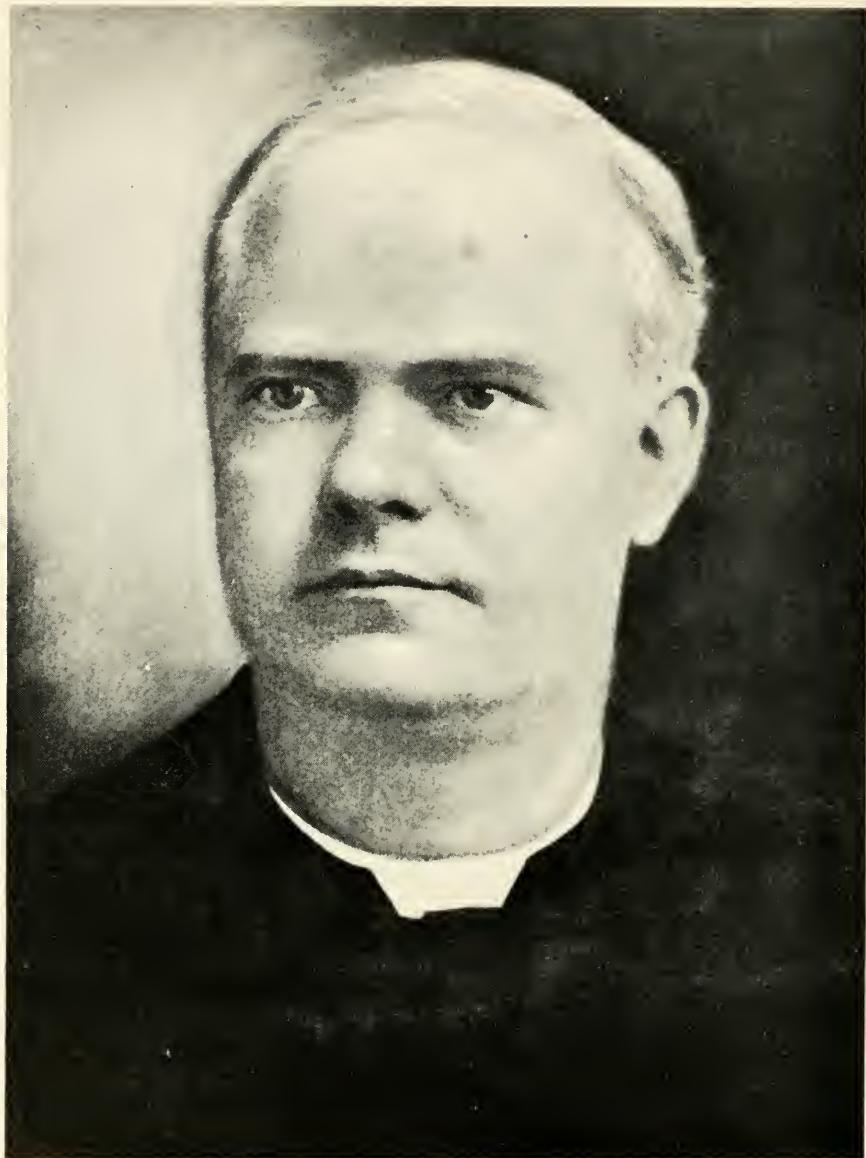
Thus we see that through trite the expression might be, the very words breed the germ of a thought that when fully examined is entirely logical: all things have humble beginnings before God and man.

So too did the great order of the Knights of Columbus have but a meager start. Eleven Catholic men met with Father John McGivney in Smith's Hall, Chapel Street, New Haven, on April 3, 1882, to form a society for Catholic men in which they would be able to exemplify to the fullest their Catholic manhood. Speaking now in retrospect how true the original thesis of the humble beginning. Little did these men know that their combined efforts would bring forth such a fruitful harvest despite the suspicion prevalent among their fellow Catholic men and even the clergy, who were at the time inclined to view Father McGivney's activity with many misgivings in their hearts. Only when the infant order met the approval of Bishop Lawrence T. McMahon of Hartford did the founders realize that the horizons of tomorrow stretched before them.

In 1895 Father McGivney passed on to his heavenly reward, but he left a living monument behind him in the flourishing councils which were expanding rapidly and adding to their membership rolls. In three scant years the Order reached New Jersey after establishing strong roots in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York and Maryland. Jersey City and Elizabeth instituted the first councils in the State and the young organization was then formally introduced to the Catholic laymen of the Garden State.

In January 1899, a new young pastor was assigned to Woodbridge. Born in New York the future priest was educated at St. Francis' College on 16th Street, Manhattan, and pursued his preliminary theological studies at St. Joseph's Seminary, Troy, New York. Because of the scholarly excellence of his work, he was transferred to the world-famous Grand Seminary in Montreal, from which he was ordained on February 17, 1883.

It is principally due to this young priest, Father John J. Griffin, that we are here tonight, March 14, 1954, to pay honor to his vision and foresight of fifty years ago.



REVEREND JOHN J. GRIFFIN  
1856 - 1918

*Pastor of St. James Church from 1899 to 1918  
and a Charter Member of Middlesex Council*

Being first a priest of God, Father Griffin was well aware of the pitfalls and shortcomings that could overtake the men of his parish early in the years of the new century. There were no organizations in St. James' parish that could tie together the much needed functions of the spiritual and the temporal, nor were there any prospects of such a club being formed just on the spur of the moment without months and months of strenuous labor and years and years of patient waiting for the Catholic men to approach such a club and make full use of it.

In September 1903, Father Griffin's close friend, Woodbridge-born Father Richard T. Ryan of Phillipsburg, invited him to witness the exemplification of the three degrees of the Order in New York City. On that day Father Griffin met the Knights of Columbus, and from that day on they kept a place close to his heart. How his brilliant mind must have soared when the precepts of the order were unfolded before him, and how he must have thought of the wonderful possibilities that Columbianism would have back home in Woodbridge!

Nor were the young men of St. James' parish unmindful of the lack of organization among themselves. They recognized the plain truth that there wasn't a place for miles around where other men of their own Faith — their fathers, brothers and sons — could congregate for an evening's fun or fraternity with their priests and have a wholesome and pleasant time.

So it was that three men met on common ground in October, 1903, with one purpose in mind — the establishment of a Catholic men's club for St. James' parish and for Woodbridge, a club where a man's faith might be strengthened and his burdent made lighter. So met Father Griffin, John F. Ryan, and Richard P. Grace.

From their discussion, mixed with the thoughts of Father Griffin on the spectacle which he had been privileged to witness just a few weeks before, a plan took form, and we can scarcely measure now the excitement that must have pulsed through the hearts and minds of the three men, meeting as pioneers of Columbianism in Woodbridge.

In several weeks they had preliminary approval from the Supreme Office to go ahead with a survey to establish how many men of the parish would be interested in affiliating themselves with the Order and carrying on the high standards of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. The response was immediate and more than encouraging. The Catholic men of the town had finally grasped the objective that they had been searching for — a solid and strong organization through which they could act as one in combating the evils of prejudice and bigotry, foremost of which was the Ku-Klux-Klan.

The stage was set, and with the good wishes of State Deputy Thomas Fay, District Deputy Dr. P. P. Rafferty of Red Bank was present in



## THE BEAUTIFUL HOME OF MIDDLESEX COUNCIL 857

Phillips Hall on Sunday afternoon, March 13, 1904, for the exemplification of the First, Second, and Third degrees of the Order for the officers and members of brand new Middlesex Council 857.

The officers chosen to lead the new Council along its first journey were John F. Ryan, Grand Knight; Father John J. Griffin, Chaplain; Herbert F. McCarthy, Deputy Grand Knight; Richard P. Grace, Financial Secretary; John F. Campion, Treasurer; James P. Gerity, Recorder; E. L. Romond, Chancellor; A. J. Delaney, Lecturer; Bernard A. Dunigan, Advocate; Michael R. Holahan, Warden; L. C. Jelicks, Inside Guard; and E. J. Mooney, Outside Guard. The first Trustees elected were John A. Dunn, P. J. Ryan, and B. J. Dunigan. Closing the activities, Dr. Rafferty spoke on the Good and Welfare of the Order before the new officers and members of Woodbridge and the two hundred fifty other members who had journeyed from Lakewood and Perth Amboy to be present at this significant event. That evening, the new Council was host at a banquet for all the men who attended the installation in the old C.B.L. Hall.



JOHN F. RYAN  
FIRST GRAND KNIGHT  
OF MIDDLESEX COUNCIL  
1904 - 1906

WILLIAM J. HAUG, JR.  
PRESENT GRAND KNIGHT  
OF MIDDLESEX COUNCIL  
1953 -



The first regular meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday evening, March 22, 1904, in Phillips Hall, at which time the Supreme Secretary acknowledged the institution of the Council in good form; the meeting nights were set for the first and third Mondays of the month, and plans were discussed to begin immediately to add to the membership roll. Meanwhile, Maurice, Bernard, and B. J. Dunigan had travelled to Lakewood to take their first and second degrees and to New Brunswick for their third degree. The second glass was formed almost immediately with Albert Thompson and Jacob Grausam taking their degrees, and a third class followed closely with Phil Dunphy, Austin McGowan, Thomas Gerity, and Thomas Reilly joining the ranks of the members.

In April of that year, Grand Knight Ryan directed a committee to draw up the By-Laws of the Council, which work was quickly approved after the first time it had been read. The first receipts of a meeting were taken in, in the amount of fifteen dollars, and the membership ordered paid its first bill for five dollars, covering the rental on the hall for one month.

During its early months of life, the Council participated in a number of degrees that were held in the vicinity and attended many of the social affairs that other Councils near and far sponsored. Stages were hired in each instance to insure the membership reaching their destination safely.

In July, William H. Mansfield became the second District Deputy to have charge of Woodbridge, and at the only meeting held in July of the first year, Father Richard Ryan, brother of the Grand Knight and a member of Warren Council 474 of Phillipsburg, spoke to the members on their duties as Knights and Catholics.

The Charter was formally presented on September 12, by the District Deputy, and a motion was immediately made and seconded that a gilt frame be purchased for the Charter for four dollars. The same frame continues to protect our Charter today, testifying to the excellence of workmanship that went into the material and labor.

That the Order was now gaining national recognition may be taken from the fact that the Council received a communication from the St. Louis Council, inviting any visiting members in the St. Louis area to take part with them in the Knights of Columbus Day that was to be held on October 12th at the St. Louis World's Fair.

That the local Council was establishing itself in its unending labor of charity is evident at the same meeting when the Council voted to donate ten dollars to the 1904 St. James' Fair.

On January 9, 1905, Michael LaPort of Plainfield was made the Council's District Deputy, and it is humorous to note that the Council

## THE CHARTER MEMBERS OF MIDDLESEX COUNCIL



JOHN F. CAMPION



J. H. CONCANNON



MICHAEL P. CONOLE



ARTHUR J. DELANEY



JOHN A. DUNN



JAMES F. DUNNE

## THE CHARTER MEMBERS OF MIDDLESEX COUNCIL



BERNARD A. DUNIGAN



B. JOSEPH DUNIGAN



MAURICE P. DUNIGAN



JAMES P. GERITY



RICHARD P. GRACE



WILLIAM A. GRACE

## THE CHARTER MEMBERS OF MIDDLESEX COUNCIL



M. R. HOLOHAN



JOSEPH A. HOWELL



JAMES P. HUGHES



LOUIS C. JELICKS

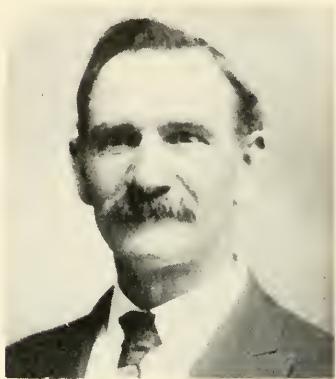


PATRICK J. KENNA



MICHAEL LEAHY

## THE CHARTER MEMBERS OF MIDDLESEX COUNCIL



H. F. McCARTHY



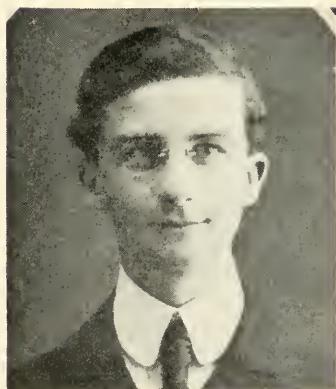
EDWARD J. MOONEY



PATRICK MURTAGH



PAUL P. OLBRICH



DAVID F. PENDER



E. L. ROMOND

## THE CHARTER MEMBERS OF MIDDLESEX COUNCIL



JOHN F. RYAN



LAWRENCE C. RYAN



PATRICK J. RYAN



WILLIAM A. RYAN

responded immediately by sending its new representative a trolley schedule and saying that all hoped that he would be able to make the trip from Plainfield often to visit them.

Strange news was made at meetings and affairs. Special accident insurance was issued to members desiring to attend the Supreme Convention to cover the many risks involved in travel in the century's early days; fantastic scores were recorded in sports events when Woodbridge met with the Plainfield Council and won a baseball game 37-0. This was one game in a series with Plainfield, and fortunately on the day of the unusual rout it was our turn to supply the refreshments.

On Sunday, October 15th, Bishop McFaul paid a visit to the parish to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation, and at Father Griffin's request the Knights acted as an honor guard, their first such function to His Excellency.

The paraphernalia so necessary for running a first class council was ordered in the early fall from Lynch and Kelly in Utica, whose tailor appeared on the scene one night to take the measurements of all the officers. Since the funds necessary for purchasing the robes outright were not available, the Council paid the \$305 bill in twenty-four easy installments as provided for by the firm. The equipment was likewise insured against loss or theft for three years for the modest sum of four dollars.

The Supreme Council was ever sympathetic to the pleas of those who had stumbled on misfortune, and so it was that when the residents of San Francisco were torn asunder in a series of terrifying earthquakes in April and May of 1906, the Supreme Council undertook the mercy work consequent upon such disaster. It solicited funds from each of the subordinate councils, and Supreme Knight Hearn's plea was heard generously in Woodbridge, where twenty-five dollars from the tiny treasury was voted to the relief work.

On June 25, 1906, the Council received word that another new District Deputy had been appointed to take charge of the Woodbridge area. He was William J. O'Keefe also of Plainfield.

In the early fall of 1906, several members of the Council, being very active in the club's activities and therefore exemplary candidates, made the long trip to Jersey City to receive the honors of the Fourth Degree of the Order. They included Joseph Dunigan, James Gerity, John Ryan, Richard Grace, Paul Olbrick, Bernard Dunigan, and John Concannon. Later the second group of candidates for the Fourth Degree from Woodbridge went to Newark to receive the degree. They were Michael Holohan and Jacob Grausam.

A letter was read from New Jersey Chapter #7 at the meeting of May 1, 1909, soliciting the interest of the Council in membership in the

group and describing the work of the Chapter generally. The prime requisite for membership included the payment by each member of a council seeking admission the sum of twenty-five cents every three months for two and a half years to defray the Chapter's College Endowment Fund. The sum that was their goal was \$500, but before this sum was raised, the fund was turned over to the Supreme Council for its use in the Catholic University Fund.

The year 1910 brought with it an increase in the funds of the ever-growing treasury with \$235 being realized in a July field meet and over \$300 at the first Columbus Day banquet. It was during this same year that Grand Knight Richard Grace, together with every other member of the Council, realized the need for permanent quarters of some kind to house the expanding membership. With that in mind he appointed a building committee headed by Past Grand Knight John Ryan to look into the feasibility of acquiring the suitable accommodations. Although the first club house was not purchased until 1917, this action showed the independent spirit of the members, and from that day forward everyone's thoughts revolved on the day when the membership could take possession of its own home.

In 1912, another indication of the Council's close cooperation with the parish is indicated by an entry in the minute book of that time, wherein it was stated that, although the Council sorely needed all the funds that it could possibly raise for the purpose of furthering its long range plans, nevertheless, it voted to turn over to St. James' parish the receipts taken in at all future field meets. In the next few years, with the parish as the recipient, an average of \$300 was donated annually from these very successful events. Albert Thompson labored with great success during the early spring months of each year to manage the annual Council Spring Ball; it is noted that he handled all the arrangements as the Committee chairman for eleven years. The officer's jewels and membership buttons for each member of the Council were purchased from the gain made at the 1912 Spring Ball.

The endless and highly responsible work of the Financial Secretary was recognized early in 1913, when the salary for this office was raised from \$25 to \$50 a year. Aside from the continuing history of the Council, let us interrupt our thoughts for just a moment to take stock of the function which the Financial Secretary plays in the proper administration of a well-run council. His is the job of collecting the insurance premiums from insured members and the dues and special assessments from both the insured and associate membership. He is directly responsible to the Supreme Office for the prompt payment of these assessments as they come due, and it comes within his charge to be sure that everyone who claims membership in the Council just as readily contributes his share to the perpetuation of the Order and its activities. The local Council has been extremely fortunate throughout its existence in having men of the highest calibre and integrity function in this

little recognized and little rewarded job — men who have found time not only to watch carefully over the books of the Council but also to take full part in the many other activities of Columbianism.

The first of many ladies' nights was held on August 28, 1913, at which time the Council purchased a ladies' wrist watch for \$11.50 and raffled it off during the evening for \$67.25. It was chiefly through the efforts of chairmen, committees, and functions of this sort that the treasury continued to expand from one year to the next, which reason is, of course, in direct relation to the increasing charity which the Knights of Columbus evidenced by its ever-increasing donations to all worthy organizations which were in dire need of financial assistance to carry on their own respective good works.

Another instance of the prowess of the young Council in raising substantial sums can be gleaned from the following. In December of 1913, the membership decided to hold a fair sometime within the next two or three months. Grand Knight Jacob Grausam appointed Albert Thompson and Henry Romond as co-chairmen of the affair, and they reported promptly that Washington Hall would be available for the nights of February 12, 13, and 14, 1914. The main prize was decided upon — a complete dining room suite and brass bed (it defies understanding how the two items could possibly complement each other) and a prize for the most popular school boy and the most popular school girl. That people were looking for just the chance to win dining room and bedroom furniture is evidenced from the committee's financial report after the affair — receipts, \$1262.24; expenses, \$303.83; profit, \$958.41. This same fair committee was then appointed the Council's building committee to select a site on which the new clubhouse was to stand, and the committee was named, impressively enough, "The Woodbridge Knights of Columbus Building Association."

Within two months, the committee had dickered with M. D. Valentine to purchase a lot from him on Main Street and, to facilitate matters, transferred its Savings Fund to its Building Fund. The property, which can best be described as being the one which remained vacant on the west side of Coppola's cleaning establishment until the addition of several stores three years ago, was transferred to the Knights' ownership, where it remained for several years. The Association did its work well for a great many years under the permanent direction of Jacob Grausam, Henry Romond, Paul Olbrick, Arthur Geis, Richard Grace, John Ryan, Patrick Murphy, Maurice Dunigan, Michael Holohan, James Gerity, and Father Griffin.

Thus had the Council prospered during the first ten, and perhaps the most trying, years of its existence. The members had endowed the club with the fruit of their unceasing labor which was to stand in good stead in the periods of feast and famine to come. The period of trial had been passed with flying colors, and like the eleven men who had met with Father McGivney on

that April night in 1882, they realized that their club was to be a success and that only the bright horizons of tomorrow stretched ahead.

Soon after World War I was declared in 1917, the Council received a letter from the Supreme Secretary urging the enlistment of all able-bodied brothers; a copy of this was sent to all members as the local Knights of Columbus planned to do its share in the war effort. Among those who responded to the call to arms was the Grand Knight, Thomas Cody. Former Council Treasurer Edward M. Kelly was killed in France in 1918, the only local Knight to lose his life in the service of his country.

Middlesex Council purchased liberty bonds as a club and sponsored a contest to see which member would buy the most bonds individually. A motion was made on August 27, 1917, that there would be no more social affairs until the end of the war, and energies were channeled to patriotic endeavors. The Council cooperated fully with the Supreme Council in its one million dollar War Campaign Fund by contributing ten times its assessment of \$192. \$1941.60 was collected from members; Father Griffin took up a church collection of \$70; and the showing of a six reel silent film entitled "Under Two Flags" on September 30, 1917, netted \$33.05. After expenses had been paid, \$1933.20 was sent to the State Council War Fund. On November 11, 1918, Armistice Day, another one hundred dollars was sent to the United War Fund.

The Council relief committee cared for the wounded soldiers who were arriving daily at the Colonia General Army Hospital. On August 26, 1918, one committee was formed to secure furniture for the chaplain's office at this hospital, and another committee was appointed to stage an entertainment in the same place.

During the war the Council paid the dues and assessments for all members in the armed forces; to do this, the other members each paid an additional dollar. A service flag was purchased and dedicated in St. James' Church on Sunday, May 26, 1918. Speakers at this occasion included the Hon. P. F. Daly, Leo Healy, T. J. McLoughlin, and District Deputy William Leonard. Also present was the John Dawson Gilmary Shea General Assembly, Fourth Degree of Elizabeth.

To conclude its war work the council cooperated in raising money for the Woodbridge Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in 1920 and contributed in January of 1921 to the Hoover Reconstruction Fund.

The years following the war were gay and happy ones for the Woodbridge Knights of Columbus as they were for the rest of the nation. After July 1, 1919, meetings were held in the Knights' own clubhouse on Amboy Avenue. The same year, Brother Von Bergen, a humorous monologist, visited the Council and amused the members.

As the twenties roared on, many successful dances and banquets were held, and very profitable carnivals made possible the purchase of the current clubhouse. The 1924 carnival topped all its predecessors by raising \$3,342.50. In 1925 the Council sponsored its first annual outing to Seidler's Beach in Morgan, where an all-day picnic and clambake was held. This proved so enjoyable, that the following summer the club held a field bake in the field behind Mutton Hollow. Popular minstrels of almost professional perfection were held in the latter half of the Twenties, and in 1929, a play was presented. Entertainment was presented at local club meetings and at the meetings of other Councils.

The first Venison Dinner for active club workers was held in January 1927, when Brother Tim Sullivan gave a deer he had shot to the club. The same year set another precedent — the first New Year's Eve Dance on December 31. The Council basketball, bowling, baseball, and pinochle teams participated in township and county leagues with varying degrees of success.

In September 1921, the council contributed to the purchase of an automobile for the use of the State Deputy in his ever-expanding journeys throughout the state on behalf of the State Council. On September 10, 1923, a motion was made and seconded to purchase a radio outfit for the club at a cost of two hundred dollars. This was one of the first large receiving sets in our part of the state. On the Friday night after the installation, the club had a social for all members so that they could listen to whatever program might be available. Although members were cautioned about the use of the radio, it was necessary to repair the battery charger in two weeks because the radio had had such constant use.

The Knights of Columbus was instrumental in organizing the Catholic Daughters of America in Woodbridge. Court Mercedes #769 was formed in 1924, and Grand Knight P. H. Gallagher can claim credit for the beginning of this group which has flourished through the years alongside its brother organization.

In December 1926, the Fourth Degree organized in Woodbridge with John F. Ryan as First Faithful Navigator.

The Council contributed generously to the State Council Mexican Campaign Fund in 1926 and 1927 to aid the nuns and priests who were being persecuted by the Mexican government. After three years of work by the Supreme Council, the question was settled humanely. The council also donated to relieve the Serbians whom the Turks were torturing and to aid the Japanese through the Red Cross.

On April 13, 1921, the local Council was the fourth unit in the United States to take membership in the National Council of Catholic

Men. The annual Communion Breakfasts, generally taking place on Palm Sunday, were well attended. Each year too, a group of Woodbridge Knights made retreats at the San Alfonso Retreat House in West End. In 1927 the Council chose the third week-end in July for its retreat, giving today's retreatants a choice week-end of the shore summer season. Thus the Knights of Columbus did not neglect to help those in need nor to take care of their own spiritual welfare during this lively decade.

Difficulties confronting the group were minor ones. The Catholic Daughters complained that the Knights disrupted their meetings, but generally both clubs worked in harmony on social functions. Club members had to be given keys to the clubhouse and the doors kept locked to prevent non-members from entering the building. A bill of \$7.50 for a Christmas tree in 1928, the first year the club was decorated, riled some members but was paid after five months of debate. A concert by the Paulist Choristers at Block's State Theater in March 1927, unfortunately was not a financial success.

1929 was the Silver Jubilee year, and activities reached a peak. The Supreme Council began its Correspondence School to offer educational opportunities to the Knights at low cost. Over nine hundred dollars was realized at a public dinner-dance in January of this year. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the club's organization was celebrated at a banquet on March 16, with James P. Gerity as chairman. The last bright year of an era closed with a successful bazaar and the raffling of a Ford sedan in November.

The first record in the minutes of the mark the depression was to have on Middlesex Council is in October 1930, just a year after Black Tuesday, when a committee on unemployment was appointed with Arthur Geis as chairman. Further difficulties are revealed in 1931 when Financial Secretary Geis warned the Council that it urgently needed funds and was falling behind in current assessments. A few months later, the treasurer was advised to pay all bills immediately upon receiving sufficient funds to enable him to do so, indicating that ample money was not always available. Members in arrears in dues were given assessment loans which they paid off in installments, and baby bonds were accepted in payment of dues. By the end of 1934, finances had apparently improved, for the Council again donated to charities which it had been forced to deny previously. Indebtedness of \$297 to the State Council was eventually settled on January 21, 1941, for \$100.

Attendance at meetings dropped during the thirties, and committees contacted members urging them to appear. An attendance prize was also awarded as further encouragement. The early depression years discouraged men from assuming another obligation, and new members were few. Generally it was felt that the national raising of the age limit of Associate Members to twenty-six was a detriment to increasing membership, but protests did not cause the law's repeal. By 1934 applicants were again seeking mem-

bership, and a drive conducted in 1935 was very successful in Woodbridge where new members were balloted upon at each meeting.

Activities were as varied as previously — Communion Breakfasts, Memorial Masses, retreats, minstrels, card parties, exchange of entertainment with other councils. In addition, a dramatic club was organized in 1931, and a library and a study group were begun in 1936. Annual Charity Balls were very successful during this period. In order to keep the club financially in black, an Irish Night, a German Night, an Italian Night, and a Hallowe'en Dance were held in September and October of 1931. The married members and single men also engaged in baseball contests. One interesting phase of endeavor was the marking of all graves in St. James' Cemetery in 1931.

It was during this period, too, that New Jersey Chapter #4 had its birth, and Middlesex Council joined at the formation meeting on February 27, 1931. Through this regular meeting of delegates, the area councils were able to coordinate activities and inspire one another to work toward their common goals. The first president of the newly formed Chapter was Joseph Grace, Past Grand Knight of our Council and a Past District Deputy.

An item of sadness is recorded even before the entry of the United States into World War II — the death of Past Grand Knight Michael J. Conole in January, 1941. He was the first Past Grand Knight of the Council to die.

The Council also lost one of its ardent supporters in 1942 when Miss Rose Nash died. Miss Nash had often played the piano at the club's social functions and had contributed her services to the club in many ways. She named the organization as one of the beneficiaries of her will, and during the next six years frequent allusions are made to the will and the various items deeded to the Knights: a piano to replace the Council's old one, other items of furniture, and cash. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered yearly for the intention of Miss Nash by the membership who are all the richer for having had her as a friend throughout so many years of the Council's existence.

Enlistments and the draft further depleted club membership. Of the many Knights who served their country, two made the supreme sacrifice, Brothers Bernard J. Dunigan, Jr. and Joseph M. Grady. Committees on the home front wrote letters and sent packages to the boys in the service, and all said prayers for their safety before and after each meeting. Many social affairs were run to raise funds for the gifts that were sent with cigarettes sometimes being the admission fee. The Council again paid the dues and assessments of members in the armed forces as it had in the first World War.

The Council, in cooperation with the Chapter, undertook welfare work at the Raritan Arsenal in April, 1941. The day after Pearl Harbor, the club adopted a resolution, pledging the local government the cooperation of the men and the use of the building and its facilities for the Citizen's Defense Program. In accordance with the requirements of the Woodbridge Defense Council, the Knights purchased medical supplies to be used if needed. Members also assisted the local salvage committee in collecting scrap metal throughout the township. At the request of the State Council, the clubhouse was opened to all servicemen. Defense Bonds were purchased and contributions were made to the U. S. O. In addition, members donated blood to the Red Cross.

On December 15, 1945, a Welcome Home party was held for returned servicemen and club members. The club members paraded to the ceremony of the unveiling of the township War Memorial Monument. The club dedicated its own plaque honoring its deceased servicemen following Mass on Thanksgiving Day in 1947. This plaque is located at the foot of the stairs in the clubhouse.

The second half of the century had scarcely begun when our first Grand Knight was called from our midst. On August 9, 1950, John F. Ryan died, leaving a void impossible ever to fill.

Outstanding among the many K. of C. social functions since the war have been the annual carnivals directed by William Grausam. The income realized on these has enabled the club to quadruple its donations to all worthy charities in the past ten years, adding many new ones such as the Carmel in New Brunswick and the Mount Carmel Nursing Guild in Woodbridge to an already expansive list of civic and religious organizations.

Other new reasons for fraternizing at the clubhouse have been New Knights' Night, with new members in charge, Old Timers' Night, at which the men over seventy are made honorary members, and the Bowlers' Social. On almost any Saturday night of the year one can spend an enjoyable evening at 130 Main Street. Each year the Past Grand Knight has been honored with a testimonial dinner to show at least in part the esteem in which the Council holds him for the countless hours and untold tasks which he has performed for the Order. Bus trips to baseball and hockey games and other sport events in New York City have proved immensely popular. Together with the Ladies' Auxiliary, Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Knights sponsor a yearly dance in honor of St. Patrick's Day. They have also done their share each year to make the St. James' parish picnic at Varady's Grove a success.

# Program

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Grace .....                                       | REVEREND GUSTAVE NAPOLEON  |
| Toastmaster.....                                  | MAURICE P. DUNIGAN   |
| Welcome.....                                      | WILLIAM J. HAUG, JR.<br><i>Grand Knight</i>                        |
| Address.....                                      | THOMAS A. BARRY<br><i>State Deputy</i>                             |
| Address.....                                      | RICHARD P. GRACE<br><i>Third Grand Knight and Charter Member</i>   |
| Address.....                                      | RT. REV. MONSIGNOR CHARLES G. MCCORRISTIN<br><i>State Chaplain</i> |
| Address.....                                      | MOST REVEREND GEORGE W. AHR, D.D.<br><i>Bishop of Trenton</i>      |
| <i>The Presentation of Council Charter</i> .....  | RICHARD P. GRACE   |
| <i>The Presentation of Memorial Chalice</i> ..... | REV. GUSTAVE NAPOLEON  |
| Vocalist.....                                     | DANIEL HIGGINS   |
| <i>Closing Prayer</i> .....                       | REVEREND HAROLD L. HIRSCH  |

## Guests

MOST REV. GEORGE W. AHR, D.D.  
*Bishop of Trenton*  
RT. REV. MSGR. CHARLES G. MCCORRISTIN  
*Pastor, St. James' Woodbridge*  
*State Chaplain, Knights of Columbus*  
REV. GUSTAVE A. NAPOLEON  
*Chaplain, Middlesex Council,*  
*Woodbridge*  
REV. HAROLD L. HIRSCH, *Woodbridge*  
REV. VINCENT LENYI, *Woodbridge*  
REV. JOHN J. EAGAN, *Avenel*  
REV. STANISLAUS MILOS, *Port Reading*  
REV. JOHN E. GRIMES, *Fords*  
REV. CHARLES SUTTON, *Oaklyn*  
REV. THOMAS E. CARNEY, *Trenton*  
REV. JOHN L. CALLAHAN, *Allentown*  
REV. MAURICE P. GRIFFIN, *Trenton*  
REV. JAMES A. RUSSELL, *Riverton*  
REV. THOMAS C. RYAN, *Washington, D.C.*  
REV. RAYMOND R. GRIFFIN, *Asbury Park*  
THOMAS A. BARRY, *State Deputy*  
FRANK J. OTT, *State Secretary*  
JOHN M. SPROULS, *State Treasurer*  
EDWARD J. PATTEN, *State Advocate*

HUGH P. O'SHAUGHNESSY, *State Warden*  
LAWRENCE A. DWYER, *Past State Deputy*  
JOSEPH O'LEARY, *Master,*  
*First N. J. District, Fourth Degree*  
THOMAS HEITZMAN, *Master,*  
*Second N. J. District, Fourth Degree*  
FRANCIS J. HEALY, *District Deputy*  
HONORABLE ARTHUR QUINN  
MRS. J. H. CONCANNON  
MRS. M. P. CONOLE  
MRS. ARTHUR J. DELANEY  
MRS. JOHN A. DUNN  
MR. AND MRS. BERNARD A. DUNIGAN  
MR. AND MRS. B. JOSEPH DUNIGAN  
MR. AND MRS. MAURICE P. DUNIGAN  
MR. RICHARD P. GRACE  
MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM A. GRACE  
MR. M. R. HOLOHAN  
MRS. EDWARD J. MOONEY  
MR. AND MRS. PAUL P. OLBRICH  
MRS. DAVID F. PENDER  
MRS. JOHN F. RYAN  
MRS. LAWRENCE C. RYAN  
MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM A. RYAN

# *Committees*

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>General Chairman</i>       | WILLIAM J. GRAUSAM                        |
| <i>Tickets</i>                | JOHN M. MULLEN, <i>Chairman</i>           |
| PATRICK L. RYAN               | GEORGE REILLY                             |
| HENRY K. MILLER               | MAURICE P. DUNIGAN, JR.                   |
| WILLIAM HAUG, SR.             | JOHN PAPP                                 |
| ANDREW GERITY                 | JOHN GREGUS                               |
| CARL HERZOG                   | WILLIAM GRAUSAM                           |
| JOHN DOJCSAK                  | ALBERT STRISH                             |
| STEPHEN GUERIN                | JOSEPH NOVOTNIK                           |
|                               | WILLIAM HOLOHAN                           |
|                               | JOHN ANNESI                               |
|                               | WILLIAM HAUG, JR.                         |
|                               | ROBERT HOLZHEIMER                         |
|                               | JOSEPH BRANNEGAN                          |
| <i>Entertainment</i>          | BERNARD A. DUNIGAN                        |
|                               | <i>Co-Chairmen</i>                        |
| <i>Dinner</i>                 | JOHN J. GREGUS                            |
|                               | <i>Co-Chairmen</i>                        |
| <i>Guests</i>                 | WILLIAM J. HAUG, JR.                      |
| <i>Program</i>                | MAURICE P. DUNIGAN                        |
| <i>Golden Jubilee Booklet</i> | STEWART A. SCHODER, JR. <i>Editor</i>     |
|                               | NICHOLAS URBAN, <i>Photography</i>        |
|                               | <i>Advisory</i>                           |
| RICHARD P. GRACE              | DAVID F. GERITY                           |
| <i>Publicity</i>              | STEWART A. SCHODER, JR.                   |
| <i>Reception</i>              | JOHN ANNESI, <i>Chairman</i>              |
|                               | <i>Faithful Navigator</i>                 |
| WILLIAM HOLOHAN               | HUGH QUIGLEY                              |
| JOSEPH NOVOTNIK               | JAMES KEATING                             |
| JOHN MULLEN                   | GEORGE REILLY                             |
|                               | WILLIAM LEBEDA                            |
|                               | LEO MENARD                                |
|                               | JOHN GREGUS                               |
| <i>Advisory</i>               | RT. REV. MONSIGNOR CHARLES G. MCCORRISTIN |
|                               | ARTHUR F. GEIS                            |



R.T. REV. MONSIGNOR CHARLES G. MCCORRISTIN  
*Pastor of St. James', Woodbridge  
and State Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus*

Since the end of the war the Knights have had occasion to honor the pastor of St. James' Church and State Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, Right Reverend Monsignor Charles G. McCorristin. Monsignor McCorristin, who has been pastor in Woodbridge since 1937, was elevated by Pope Pius XII in July 1948, to the rank of Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor. On August 28, 1948, the local Council assisted in tendering a parish-wide dinner to our new Monsignor at the Pines. Despite the oppressing heat, an overflowing group of his friends was present to pay honor to the priest who had done so much for so many. The following year Monsignor McCorristin was made a dean of the clergy in Middlesex and Somerset Counties, followed by an appointment shortly thereafter as Diocesan Consultor to His Excellency, Bishop George W. Ahr. On June 5, 1951, the local Knights sponsored another dinner honoring Monsignor McCorristin — this time to celebrate the Fortieth Jubilee of his Ordination to the priesthood. We hope that we may spend many more jubilees with our Monsignor, who has aided our cause immeasurably on countless occasions.  
*Ad Multos Annos!*

Middlesex Council #857 is fortunate not only in having an attractive clubhouse for meetings and social functions, but also in having one located on a historical site. On his way to New York for his inauguration as President of the United States, George Washington spent the night of April 22, 1789, at John Manning's Inn, which was situated on the present club grounds. This building, however, was not always the home of the local Knights.

For the first dozen years meetings were held in Phillips Hall, for which the Council paid a monthly rental of five dollars. By 1916, the group was seriously considering its own clubhouse, and proceeds of the Labor Day picnic that year — \$343.17 — went into a building fund. On February 10, 1919, Father O'Farrell and James P. Gerity reported on permanent quarters for the club. They were authorized to procure such quarters and to dispose of the club's property on Main Street. Two weeks later they reported that they had procured an option on the Farrell house, the former rectory on Amboy Avenue, at a price of six thousand dollars. Within a month fifty-four members had contributed \$3,250 to the fund. To increase the total the building committee sold the club's liberty bonds at their face value and planned a series of entertainments to raise money to purchase furniture for the new clubhouse. Mr. Phillips was notified that the Knights would not need his hall after July 1, 1919. The Council was divided into squads of fifteen men who took charge of the clubhouse and were known as the Board of Directors of the Knights of Columbus Building Association.

By 1921 new quarters were sought, and on July 25, each member received a special notice regarding the purchase of a new club. Richard P. Grace was chairman of the twenty-five member finance committee to handle the stock of the new club. The profits of the August carnival — almost three thousand dollars — were turned over to the building association to be used in the purchase of the Elias home. Receipts of many social functions within the next few years were devoted to payments on this project.

In 1932 a motion was passed that fifty per cent of all dues paid would accrue to the Columbian Club rather than to the Knights of Columbus.

Since the Raritan Bay area, by virtue of the great number of large industrial enterprises located there, was particularly hard-hit during the depression years, many of the members were thrown into unemployment. John F. Killeen, who was House Chairman of the club at this dark period, devised a method whereby any member so desiring could help with the painting, repair, and general maintenance of the club in return for which the member had his dues and assessments paid for him. In addition he could earn a small sum each week, thereby assuring some income, however small. It was this farsighted solution to a problem of the greatest urgency that had no small part in maintaining the membership rolls at almost full capacity.

## PAST GRAND KNIGHTS OF MIDDLESEX COUNCIL



JOHN F. RYAN  
1904 - 1907



JAMES P. GERITY  
1908 - 1909



RICHARD P. GRACE  
1910 - 1911



M. R. HOLOHAN  
1912 - 1913



JACOB W. GRAUSAM  
1914 - 1915



MICHAEL P. CONOLE  
1916 - 1917

## PAST GRAND KNIGHTS OF MIDDLESEX COUNCIL



THOMAS CODY  
1918



MICHAEL J. COLL  
1919 - 1922



P. H. GALLAGHER  
1923 - 1924



J. JOSEPH GRACE  
1925 - 1927



GEORGE T. O'BRIEN  
1930 - 1931



ARTHUR F. GEIS  
1928 - 1929

## PAST GRAND KNIGHTS OF MIDDLESEX COUNCIL



ANDREW D. DESMOND  
1932



WILLIAM J. FENTON  
1933 - 1934



CHRISTIAN J. WITTING  
1935 - 1936



JOHN J. POWERS  
1937



ALFRED J. COLEY  
1938



JOHN F. RYAN, JR.  
1939

## PAST GRAND KNIGHTS OF MIDDLESEX COUNCIL



HENRY K. MILLER  
1940



J. B. DUNIGAN  
1941 - 1942



WILLIAM D. BOYLAN  
1943



WILLIAM J. GRAUSAM  
1944 - 1945



PATRICK L. RYAN  
1946



JOHN J. GREGUS  
1947

## PAST GRAND KNIGHTS OF MIDDLESEX COUNCIL



RICHARD T. RYAN  
1948



STEPHEN J. KAGER  
1949



DAVID F. GERITY  
1950



EDWARD LEONARD  
1951



ROBERT HOLZHEIMER  
1952



JOHN FOFRICH  
1953

On February 3, 1948, the Council received a letter from Edward J. Patten announcing that the mortgage had been marked paid and had been cancelled from the record. The club proceeded to make plans for the burning of the mortgage at an Old Timers' Night. Final clearing of the debt came in 1950 and 1951 when the Council bonds were paid.

The passage of time has brought many improvements to the club building, and members have worked to maintain its appearance inside and out. During the past year and a half, extensive renovating has been accomplished on the first floor, with an entirely new and modern living room and television room being installed. Past Grand Knight John Fofrich has labored for four years to install all new wiring throughout the building itself and on the grounds for the carnival and shrine; he has devised special lighting effects which lend themselves beautifully to the shrine and Christmas crib. During the winter of 1937, the basement of the club was fashioned into an area that could be used for entertaining at all social functions, and a host of good times have been held here in the intervening years.

Among the recent additions is the beautiful Christmas crib erected annually since 1949. The crib and background of music add to the festive appearance of the club and at the same time remind the town of the true meaning of Christmas. In 1951 Past Grand Knight William Grausam suggested that the well on the club grounds, which no longer had any practical use, be turned into a shrine to honor the Mother of God. On December 7, 1952, the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima was blessed, with the hope that the prayers offered there would bring peace to the world.

A religious spirit permeates all the work done by the Knights of Columbus, but some activities deserve special mention. Among the more recent is the Nocturnal Adoration Hour which the club observes in St. Mary's Church, Perth Amboy, each First Friday night. The Christmas crib and the Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima on the club grounds have already been mentioned. The club for the last three years has encouraged, with considerable success, local merchants to close their businesses from noon until three o'clock on Good Friday. Fifty-one stores observed this three hour period in 1951, and the number increased in the succeeding years. During the Marian Year the Council is cooperating with the Holy Father's plea by opening its meetings with the recitation of the Rosary in Our Lady's Shrine.

Communion Breakfasts, once annual affairs, are now held four times a year. Although the cost of these breakfasts has risen noticeably from an almost incredible thirty-five cents many years ago, this has been no obstacle to attendance; the breakfasts, now held at Howard Johnson's Restaurant, Woodbridge, are well-attended by the members who enjoy listening to prominent Catholic speakers as well as the social and spiritual aspects of the occasions.

Each year, too, additional men discover the benefits of an annual week-end retreat, and the number of Knights journeying to San Alfonso to spend the third week-end in July with the Redemptorist Fathers increases. Through the Council's Retreat Club men can put aside money each month to meet this expense.

Besides having Masses offered for departed members at the time of their death, the Council has always remembered all its deceased members with an annual Mass. This is currently a Thanksgiving Day event. Other examples of group religious activity are the yearly Columbus Day exercises and the attendance at Mass in a body on May 1 as a protest against Communism.

Although the religious work of the Council is its prime motive, the Knights of Columbus has always been active in civic work, helping when occasions demanded the town, the state, and the nation. It has generously contributed to all worthy charities and has participated in local projects with noteworthy effects.

#### PHILLIPS HALL, WHERE MEETINGS WERE HELD AND DEGREES EXEMPLIFIED FOR THE FIRST THIRTEEN YEARS



In 1917, a committee consisting of Grand Knight Michael J. Conole, Deputy Grand Knight John A. Walsh, and Maurice P. Dunigan was formed to look into the matter of discrimination by the Board of Education and the residents of the Township of Woodbridge in the hiring of Catholic school teachers. Through their efforts and later work of the group religion has long ceased to be a question in the Woodbridge system of education. The club can boast of several Knights of Columbus who are members of the local Board of Education as well as many Catholic teachers in the Township's public schools.

The Knights of Columbus has also made its opinions felt on such educational issues as the passage of the New Jersey Bus Bill, which permitted Catholic school pupils to ride on public school buses when seats were available, and the thwarting of the Barden Bill, which would have given federal aid to public schools and denied it to parochial institutions. Members have been urged to write to their state and national representatives about these and other items of legislation.

Columbianism was influential, too, in combating the Ku-Klux-Klan in New Jersey.

In addition to its work in World War I, the Council cooperated with the Kingwood Athletic Club in raising money to place a monument in front of the municipal building with the names of the town's service men and other memoirs sealed in a capsule. To show their good will, the Knights sold tickets to a block dance for the benefit of the Salvation Army in 1920.

The Knights gave food and shelter to the refugees of the Morgan explosion of October 1918, in a station set up in the C.B.L. Hall, which is now the location of Holahan's Garage. During the influenza epidemic of the same period, members met at the corner of School and Main Streets, since meetings indoors were prohibited under state law, and voted their services to nurse the victims of the disease. They marched to the home of Mr. Ernest Boynton, chairman of the emergency hospital, and began their services in two shifts of four men each at the parish house.

On October 13, 1924, the Knights of Columbus received a letter from the Township of Woodbridge, requesting aid in beginning a system of municipal playgrounds. The Council responded with a cash donation and a pledge of cooperation. This was the beginning of the present recreational department. The Council also expressed its willingness to give whatever support it could to the Kiddie Keep Well Camp when it was started in 1929, and it has kept its promise by donating the items requested as well as cash throughout the intervening years. In addition, the group has supported the K. of C. summer camps for boys at Bamber and Culver Lakes.

The interest of Middlesex Council in local youth reached a peak in 1937 and 1938 when it established the Columbian Cadet Corps — one of the aims of the State Council. A basketball league was formed to attract the boys with Elmer J. Preen as chairman, assisted by the club's athletic committee. Induction ceremonies for the C. C. C. were held on April 20, 1938, and the group functioned well for the next few years with William Boylan succeeding Preen as Commander. In 1940, the Cadet Corps was given a first aid course by the Council.

By March 4, 1941, in accordance with the plans of the Bishop's Boys Work Committee and the parish priests, a Catholic Boy Scout Troop was formed, superseding the Columbian Cadet Corps. The Knights supported this group during its short existence and has also contributed to and solicited funds for the Raritan Bay Boy Scout Council. The club has also been an ardent supporter of the present Catholic Youth Organization in St. James' Parish. It has sponsored tournaments and has awarded trophies to the winners in addition to its other donations.

As further evidence of its work with young boys, the Knights of Columbus sponsored the first team when the Little League was formed in the township in 1951.

The group has also sponsored essay contests, with the children in the township Catholic schools participating and has, since 1933, rewarded an outstanding graduate of St. James' School with a medal or a partial preparatory school scholarship.

A committee of Knights endeavors to prevent the sale of salacious literature and the showing of indecent films in the town through protests and, when necessary, a boycott.

Another example of the Council's participation in local affairs is its marching in the parade each Memorial Day and in the parade for Captain Kurt Carlson on January 19, 1952.

Last June, the Star Council Certificate was presented to Council #857 for its exemplary fulfillment of the national five point program in the year ending on June 30, 1953. The receipt of this certificate for the nineteenth consecutive year testifies to the local Council's efforts to work in accordance with the plans of the national and state organizations and the area Chapter.

As early as May 1, 1909, the Council joined New Jersey Chapter #7 but withdrew its membership a year and a half later, December 12, 1910. Then, as has been previously cited, the members of Middlesex Council were very active in the formation of New Jersey Chapter #4 in 1931, and they have remained so until the present. Five local men have done such outstanding work for Columbianism that their efforts have been observed and

rewarded by the State Council by their being named as District Deputies. They include James P. Gerity, Joseph Grace, Joseph Dunigan, William Grausam, and, at present, Robert Holzheimer.

During 1946, New Jersey Chapter #4, under the leadership of Past Grand Knight William Grausam, chairman, and at his suggestion, formed the Hospital Bed and Wheel Chair Committee. The purpose of the committee was to invest certain of the Chapter's funds periodically in beds and wheel chairs, not only for the use of members of the Order, but for anyone in the area represented in the Chapter who could not afford or who was not able to procure through other sources such equipment. During the eight-year-life of this committee, untold good work has been done in the community as a whole, and at every Chapter meeting letters of thanks are read from Catholics and non-Catholics alike who have benefitted from this splendid work of mercy. In April 1949, the Council donated two hospital beds to the Woodbridge Emergency Squad for their use when emergencies arose. Their value was pointed up at the tragic train wreck in Woodbridge in February, 1951.

The blood donor committee of the Council was reactivated in January 1950, with Edward Martin as the new chairman; the committee had been originally instituted in 1937 by Grand Knight Henry Miller. Letters were sent to all members after this meeting, and, on the first of February, fifty men were typed and captains were appointed for the donor teams. Needless to report, through the efforts of chairmen Martin and Hasko the blood that has been given to seriously ill patients — members and families of members — has been responsible for saving several lives and restoring countless other patients to excellent health.

The Fourth Degree had lapsed into a period of relative inactivity after its formal inauguration in 1926, and it was not until February of 1947 that anything was done to remedy the situation. At that time, William Grausam spoke of the Fourth Degree at a Council meeting in an attempt to interest the members to join. Letters were sent to everyone in the Council with the same purpose, and in the fall of the year the assembly enjoyed a rebirth. Past Grand Knight Patrick Ryan was chosen as the Faithful Navigator and, together with eighteen other new Fourth Degree members, did much to start the assembly on its way to becoming the pacesetter that it is today.

In 1950, the Color Guard of the Assembly was formed, and at the Memorial Day parade the Corps marched for the first time in their capes and chapeaux. Since then they have functioned at every parade, both township and Holy Name, and at crownings, First Communions, First Solemn Masses, and as honor guard to His Excellency, Bishop George W. Ahr, D.D., of Trenton, at Confirmation, and at the Boy Scout Court of Honor.



#### C. B. L. HALL, WHERE COUNTLESS SOCIAL FUNCTIONS WERE HELD BEFORE THE COUNCIL SECURED ITS OWN CLUBHOUSE

Because of the amount of work which he had done in the organization of the Fourth Degree, and after having served as the second Faithful Navigator of the Assembly, William Grausam was made the permanent Captain of the Color Corps when it was formed. Another innovation of the Corps was the procurement of a Fourth Degree marching flag last year. The Reverend John J. Griffin Assembly is one of a very few assemblies within the jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus to have its own Fourth Degree banner.

Another phase of Columbianism that flourished in the Council from time to time in the past fifty years was that of a degree team. Originally the team from our Council was known far and wide throughout the state for the exacting ritual which it put on when exemplifying the First and Second Degrees of the Order. On August 7, 1951, Past Grand Knight Grausam explored the possibilities with the membership of reactivating the team; this was done in the following several months. Exacting rehearsals were held, with the result that the local team has put on several degrees within the past year and a half that have been judged almost perfect. The team is now in demand for degrees in neighboring councils — a fact which attests to the fine work being done by the group.

Thus reads the monument, carved from the enduring spirit which makes simple men great, inspired men leaders, and faithful followers the bastions and buttresses of granite upon which organizations find their everlasting strength.

The new horizon for the local Council stretches ahead to cover the span of the next fifty years — only God alone knows what it holds in store.

Our great Council has been the birthplace of constant leadership. The history proves that. Its members have constantly striven to raise the standards of the Council in particular and the Order in general, with the result that both have expanded to the stature of true greatness and have added an even greater luster of magnificence. Its monuments stand behind the Council in solemn testimony of the honors which the men of the past fifty years so richly deserve.

May God and His Blessed Mother be with us on this Jubilee Day, and may They watch over us in the years to come. May They guide our ways in the light of Truth and bless us constantly so that at the appointed time when each and every one of us is called before Our Maker for our final accounting, we may hear the Divine Invitation: "Come ye blessed of My Father — into the Kingdom which has been prepared for you from the beginning."

THE FIRST CLUBHOUSE OWNED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS. IT LATER BECAME THE RECTORY OF ST. JAMES' CHURCH BUT IS NOW A PRIVATE RESIDENCE AGAIN



# HEROES WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE



EDWARD M. KELLY  
WORLD WAR I



BERNARD JOSEPH DUNIGAN  
WORLD WAR II



JOSEPH M. GRADY  
WORLD WAR II



### OFFICERS OF MIDDLESEX COUNCIL 857

First Row, l. to r. Stewart A. Schoder, Jr., Chancellor; Carl J. Herzog, Deputy Grand Knight; Rev. Gustav Napoleon, Chaplain; William J. Haug, Jr., Grand Knight; John M. Mullen, Financial Secretary.

Second row, l. to r. John Annessi, Inside Guard; John Papp, Warden; Joseph Novotnik, Recorder; John Donick, Treasurer; John Fofrich, Trustee.

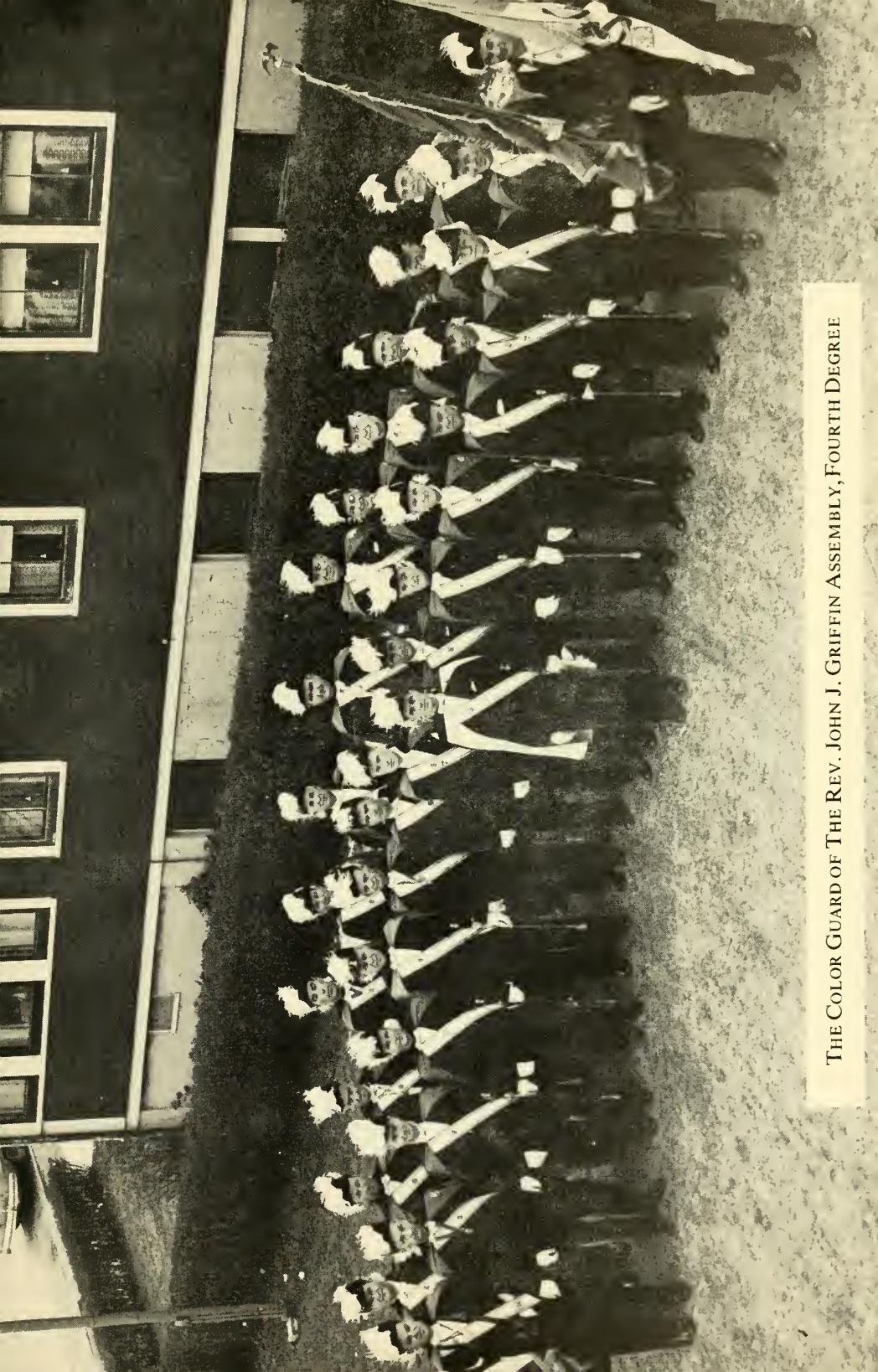
Third row, l. to r. Andrew Gerity, Lecturer; Joseph Arway, Advocate; Robert Holzheimer, Trustee; Edward Leonard, Trustee; Albert Stritch, Outside Guard.



#### OFFICERS OF REVEREND JOHN J. GRIFFIN ASSEMBLY, FOURTH DEGREE

First row, l. to r. William Holohan, Scribe; Dr. Gerard J. Goodman, Admiral; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles G. McCorristin, Friar; John Annessi, Navigator; John Fofrich, Purser. Second row, l. to r. Stephen J. Kager, Outer Sentinel; James Keating, Captain; John Palinsky, Pilot; Leo Menard, Inner Sentinel; Robert Holzheimer, Comptroller.

THE COLOR GUARD OF THE REV. JOHN J. GRIFFIN ASSEMBLY, FOURTH DEGREE





**THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA, DEDICATED TO LASTING WORLD PEACE**  
Monsignor Charles G. McCorristin, State Chaplain, at left, and Past Grand Knight  
John Fofrich at right, on the day of dedication.

## PAST FAITHFUL NAVIGATORS OF REVEREND JOHN J. GRIFFIN ASSEMBLY, FOURTH DEGREE



JOHN F. RYAN  
1927 - 1928



PATRICK L. RYAN  
1948



WILLIAM J. GRAUSAM  
1949



GEORGE REILLY  
1950



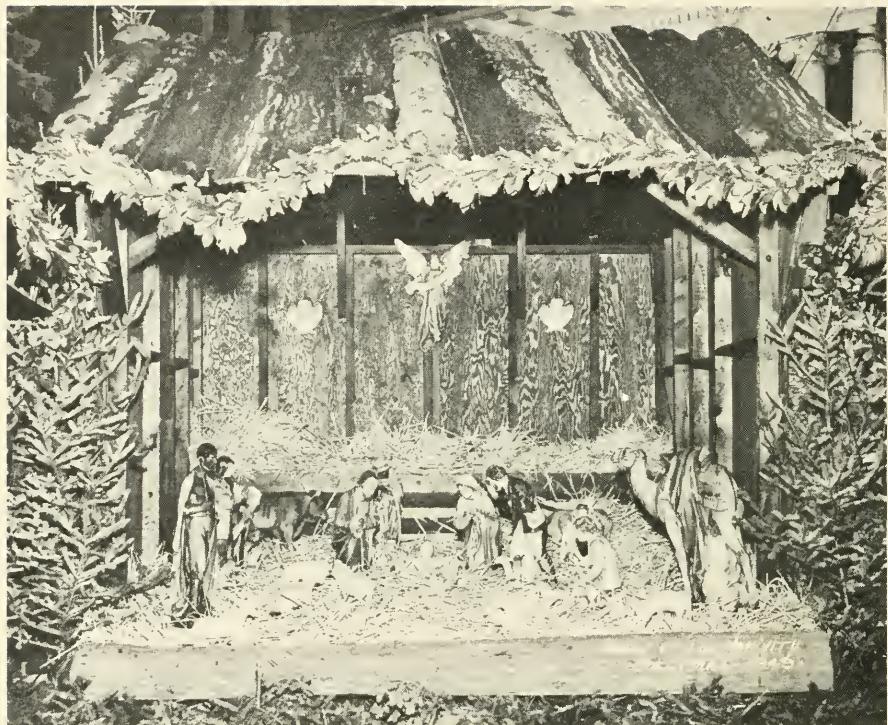
HARRY BURKE  
1951



JOSEPH J. NOVOTNIK  
1952



DR. GERARD J. GOODMAN  
1953



THE CHRISTMAS CRIB ERECTED ANNUALLY ON THE CLUB'S GROUNDS







